



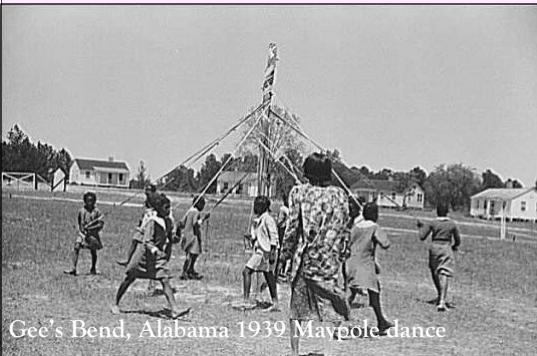
## GREEN MATTERS

### DPW ENVIRONMENTAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION

NATIONAL MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH

# The Maypole

The first of May marks May Day and the Maypole dance tradition. May Day is a celebration of Spring observed on the first of May. It is a ceremonial folk dance that dates back to the days before the birth of Jesus. It is a holiday with its roots based in astronomy. It is one of the year's four cross-quarter days which are the four days marking the beginning of each quarter of the year. The cross quarter days are the four holidays that are celebrated in between the quarter days known as Groundhog Day (February 2), May Day (May 1), Lammas (August 1), and Halloween (October 31). Simply put, it is halfway between an equinox and a solstice.



The Maypole dance is one of the best known traditions surrounding Mayday. The Maypole is a tall wooden pole wrapped with colorful ribbons where the Maypole dance takes place.

In the late 20th century it was also custom to make homemade May baskets filled with spring flowers and candies and leave them on your neighbors doorsteps.



It is practiced more within the Germanic Europe and the surrounding areas where the tradition has spread. The earliest recorded use of the Maypole in America happened in 1628 at New Plymouth. Governor William Bradford spoke of a Maypole being set up in the middle of the settlement.

This May Day be on the lookout for the Maypole celebration. You won't be able to miss the tall wooden pole drowned in colorful ribbons with little ones dancing around the pole with colorful streamers celebrating this ancient Spring festival!

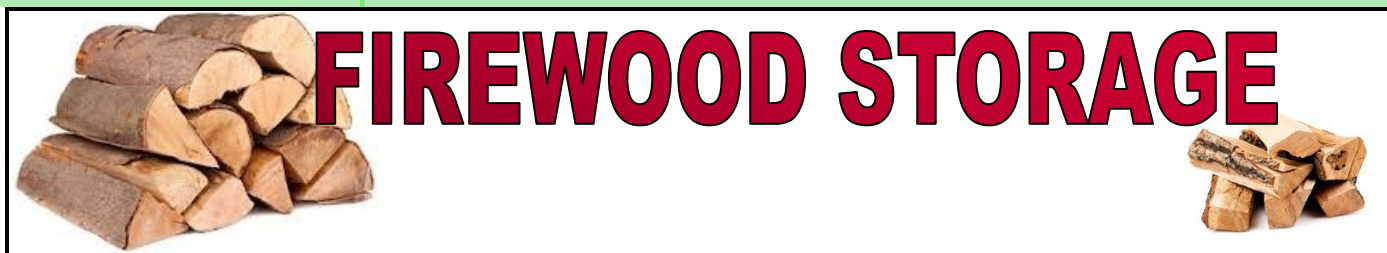


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#### Upcoming Training and Events

- May 6-7 Hazardous Waste Management Course, 0800-1600: Bldg 11307
- May 13 SPCC Training, 0900-1300, Bldg 11307
- May 14 Hazardous Waste Refresher, 0830;0945, Bldg 11307
- June 3 3rd Qtr FY15 EQCC Meeting, 1300-1400; Darling Hall, GC Conf Room
- June 8-12 Environmental Officer Course, 0800-1600, Bldg 11307



Now that Spring is upon us, the warmth that our fireplaces and wood stoves once provided has dimmed, for their services are no longer required now for quite a spell. What about all the firewood that may be left over from the winter? What's the best way to store it during the summer, so it can be fuel for the next winter? It pretty much can be stored the same way as it is in the winter time. The main goal is to keep it dry in order to get the most efficient and cleanest burn. It really isn't that complicated. Here are some tips to follow for firewood storage:

1. **KEEP IT OFF THE GROUND.** It is best to keep the wood off of the ground. The wood will absorb moisture from the ground. Keeping it off the ground will keep it clean and dry. Pavement, concrete slab, plywood, lumber or well drained gravel are preferable surfaces.
2. **KEEP IT DRY.** Number one plays a part in this as well. Keeping it off the ground will help keep it dry, but if it rains there needs to be a cover over the top. Wood sheds work great. Tarps can be useful too, but it is important not to cover the entire stack of wood if it is somewhat wet. Leave the sides open for air circulation. Covering the entire pile with a tarp only seals the moisture in.
3. **AMPLE AIR CIRCULATION.** Storing wood in a shed is a great idea, but it needs to be vented where air can circulate through to dry if it is wet and if the wood is still green. If the wood gets wet, the best way to dry it out is to expose it to the sun and wind. Once it is dry, then it can be placed in a firewood shed for extended storage.
4. **PROPERLY STACK FIREWOOD.** This helps in reducing the amount of space used, creates better airflow, and it just plain out looks neater. For those of us who aren't neat freaks, a pile will suffice but you want get the added benefits of properly stacking. The choice is yours.

Following these tips will help ensure that this wood is "fuel ready" when winter rolls around.



FIREWOOD SHED





# MAINTAINING SPRINKLER SYSTEMS

Routine maintenance of your irrigation system can save time, money and water. Now that Spring is here, you need to check to see if your sprinkler system is up to par for the summer season. Here are some common areas to inspect for leaks or other problems in your sprinkler system:

Make sure the sprinklers are running in order to check for water leaks.

## Common Problem Areas to Inspect

### ***Clogged Sprinklers***

Over time sprinkler heads can become clogged with dirt and debris inhibiting the water from spraying out properly or not at all. You must remove a portion of the sprinkler head to unclog it. Make sure you follow proper dismantling instructions to remove components of the sprinkler heads to clear it of debris.

### ***Leaking Sprinklers and Valves***

Sometimes the seals located in the sprinkler heads can become worn over time and cause leaking and need replacing, but in some cases, with large leaks, the entire sprinkler should be replaced. Valves also go thru normal wear and tear and get cracked causing leaks in the system. These can be replaced by a local irrigation contractor.

### ***Obstructed Sprinklers***

Make sure objects are not placed in front of, or near sprinkler heads like trash cans. Make sure you have proper maintenance of grass, shrubs, and over hanging limbs that could also hinder the water's path.

### ***Overspray***

Overspray is seen sometimes driving through neighborhoods as your car gets a light carwash as you pass by. You need to adjust the sprinklers to make sure the streets and driveways aren't getting wet. The landscape is the only area that should be getting wet.

### ***Missing Nozzles***

Nozzles can easily get detached by mowers. Check and make sure they are all present and intact. Leaking pipes or breaks in pipes are normally under ground. Large pools of standing water may indicate a leaky pipe.

## Watering Facts

- Most American households use 320 gallons of water each day, and approximately 30 percent of it is used for outdoor purposes.
- Over 50 percent of outdoor water used is for watering landscapes and gardens.
- Across the United States, roughly 9 billion gallons of water each day are used for watering landscapes, so it is important to maintain our sprinkler systems to avoid wasting water.
- At least 50 percent of the water used for irrigation is wasted due to evaporation, wind, or runoff caused by inefficient watering systems. Fixing leaks and repairing sprinkler heads can help reduce the amount of water that we waste everyday as a nation.

# Georgia's Archaeology Month

May is Archeology Month in Georgia and the perfect time to reflect on the importance of cultural resources. The land that Fort Gordon sits on has been occupied since around 10,000 BC. Cultural resources in the form of archaeological sites, artifacts, historic home site, and army construction represent the various groups that lived on this land before and after Fort Gordon was established. As a federal agency, Fort Gordon is directed, not only by Federal laws, but also by Army regulations (AR 200-4), to be a good steward of culturally and historically significant sites for the public.

The Cultural Resource Management Program (CRMP) assists Fort Gordon in its stewardship responsibilities. One way the CRMP does this is through policy and agreement documents. Fort Gordon's Integrate Cultural Resource Management Plan is a five year plan that establishes program goals and cultural resource management standing operating procedures. The CRMP has a Programmatic Agreement with the Georgia State Historic Preservation Officer to streamline the project review process for impacts to cultural resources. Fort Gordon also has Memorandums of Understanding with several Federally recognized Indian Tribes, that lays out the policy of how and when Fort Gordon consults with them on cultural sites that are important to them.

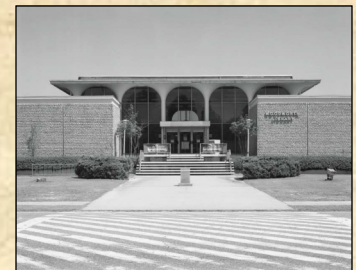
## **Archaeological Sites:**

Over 1150 archaeological sites have been identified on Fort Gordon, of which 155 are eligible or potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. These sites range from small Native American hunting camp sites to early 20<sup>th</sup> century home sites. Any cultural material collected on Fort Gordon is housed at the archaeological curation facility on the University of Georgia, Athens campus.

In order to protect archaeological sites, all activities that may involve ground disturbance on Fort Gordon must be reviewed first through the CRMP-Environmental Division of the Directorate of Public Works. Metal Detecting and Artifact Collecting on federal property without a permit is illegal.

## **Historic Buildings:**

Woodworth Library, Building 33500, is currently the only eligible historic building on Fort Gordon. The library, built in 1966, has been determined exceptionally significant for its unique architectural style not only for an army library, but also for the architecture present on Fort Gordon and in state of Georgia.



The Signal School campus also has historical significance and is currently being reviewed for its eligibility, as an historic district, to the National Register. While the Signal School classrooms may not look especially historic, they do represent an important part of Fort Gordon's history. These buildings, built 1966-73, were designed to support the consolidation of the Signal Corps to Fort Gordon in the early 1970s.

## **Cemeteries:**

Fort Gordon maintains 46 historic cemeteries with over 650 graves, dating from 1827-2011, contained within them. With the exception of two POW cemeteries, all cemeteries on the installation existed as family cemeteries when the military bought the land. A list of cemeteries and those buried can be found online at:

*(continued on next page....)*





(Cultural resources continued.....)

<http://files.usgwarchives.net/ga/richmond/cemeteries/ftgordon.txt>. Cemetery condition is documented annually by CRMP staff.

For information on how to visit any historic cemeteries on Fort Gordon please contact the Public Affairs office at (706) 791-1871.


**More Information:** If you want to find out more on the cultural history of the area and Fort Gordon, please contact the CRMP (706) 791-6374/2403 to get a copy of the book *From Spearpoints to Satellites; the Story of the US Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon, Georgia* by Sharyn Kane and Richard Keeton.

**May is Archaeology Month in Georgia and the Augusta Museum of History will host its annual Archaeology Day at the Ezekiel Harris House on May 2<sup>nd</sup> from 10:00-4:00.**

AUGUSTA MUSEUM OF HISTORY & AUGUSTA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
present

# Archaeology Day

**SATURDAY  
MAY 2, 2015  
10:00 AM - 4:00 PM  
free admission**



**at the 1797 Ezekiel Harris House, 1822 Broad Street**

VISIT [WWW.AUGUSTAMUSEUM.ORG](http://WWW.AUGUSTAMUSEUM.ORG) FOR MORE INFORMATION  
OR CALL THE AUGUSTA MUSEUM OF HISTORY 706-722-8454, OR  
THE AUGUSTA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY 706-564-5868 / 706-210-0776

Archaeologists will be on hand to identify and classify prehistoric and historic artifacts and artifact collections • Paleo-Indian and Dalton period projectile points will be formally recorded • Artifacts from local sites on display, including artifacts from the Ezekiel Harris House • Flint knapping and primitive weapons demonstrations • Ezekiel Harris House Tours

In case of rain, Archaeology Day will be located at AUGUSTA MUSEUM OF HISTORY, 560 Reynolds Street, Downtown Augusta

US ARMY

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## Sources:

- ~<http://www.madronefirewood.com/firewood-storage/>
- ~<http://www.theholidayspot.com/mayday/history.htm>
- ~<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maypole>
- ~<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ae451>
- ~<http://www.epa.gov/WaterSense/pubs/outdoor.html>
- ~Renee Lewis, Cultural Resource Specialist, Innovar/ on-site contractor at Fort Gordon
- ~<http://earthsky.org/human-world/why-do-we-celebrate-may-day>
- ~Gee's Bend, Alabama, 1939. Image Credit: Wiki-media Commons
- ~[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quarter\\_days](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quarter_days)